

# **ATTACHMENTS**

**Motutere Recreation Reserve  
Management Plan Committee Meeting**

**25 July 2024**

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**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MOTUTERE RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE MOTUOAPA FISHING & BOATING CLUB, 8 ARATAHA STREET, MOTUOAPA**  
**ON THURSDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 10.23AM**

**PRESENT:** Cr Danny Loughlin (in the Chair from Item 5.2 onwards), Member Aroha French, Cr Sandra Greenslade, Member Maru Maniapoto (via MS Teams), Cr Kevin Taylor, Mayor David Trewavas (until 10.58am), Member Jade Wikaira (via MS Teams)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cr Karam Fletcher, General Manager People and Community Partnerships (L O'Brien), Policy Manager (N Carroll), Iwi and Co-Governance Manager (D Rameka), Executive Manager Mayor's Office (J Later), Governance Quality Manager (S James), Iwi Engagement Partner (T Walker), Policy Advisor (F Bramwell), Policy Advisor (H Wood), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts), Committee Advisor (D Periam)

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC:** Nil

*Notes:* (i) Member Maru Maniapoto opened with a mihi and karakia, and closed the meeting with a karakia.  
(ii) General Manager People and Community Partnerships Libby O'Brien led item 5.1.  
(iii) Items were considered in the following order: 1, 5.1, 2, 3, 4, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4.

**1 KARAKIA**

**2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES**

Nil

**3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil

**4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Nil

**5 NGĀ KAUPAPA HERE ME NGĀ WHAKATAUNGA | POLICY AND DECISION MAKING**

**5.1 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

The General Manager People and Community Partnerships opened with a mihi and introduced herself and her role. She explained that due to this being the first meeting of the Committee, a Chair and Deputy Chair needed to be elected. She recommended that members use System B as the voting system.

**MRRMP202311/01 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin  
Seconded: Member Aroha French

That the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee confirms that System B will be used to determine the election process for the chairperson and deputy chairperson.

**CARRIED**

**MRRMP202311/02 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Kevin Taylor  
Seconded: Cr Sandra Greenslade

That the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee elects Cr Danny Loughlin as the chairperson of the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee.

**CARRIED**

**MRRMP202311/03 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Member Maru Maniapoto  
Seconded: Member Aroha French

That the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee elects Member Jade Wikaira as the deputy chairperson of the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted in favour of resolutions MRRMP202311/01-03 above.*

*Cr Danny Loughlin chaired the meeting from this point.*

**5.2 MIHIMIHI - INTRODUCTIONS**

Members introduced themselves to all present.

**Member Jade Wikaira** introduced herself and advised that she resided in Wellington. She apologised for not being able to attend the meeting in person. She was pleased to be part of this journey.

**Member Aroha French** introduced herself and advised that she was also pleased to be part of this Committee, and was there for all to work together. She was proud of her cultural connections, and Waitetoko Marae. She intended to work for the collective future.

**Cr Sandra Greenslade** introduced herself as the Tūrangi Tongariro ward councillor. She enjoyed working with those in the district. This Reserve Management Plan review was part of the important mahi in the district, and she was honoured to be there.

**Cr Danny Loughlin** gave his pepeha and introduced himself as a first term councillor of the newly established Te Papamārearea ward. He was also pleased to be there.

**Cr Kevin Taylor** introduced himself and advised he was also pleased to be there. This was his second term as a Taupō ward councillor and his first term as the Deputy Mayor. He looked forward to the work required in relation to the Reserve Management Plan review.

**Mayor David Trewavas** greeted everyone and thanked them for attending. He congratulated Chair Cr Danny Loughlin for accepting the role, and thanked all of the Committee members for accepting their roles and responsibilities.

**Cr Karam Fletcher** gave a mihi.

**MRRMP202311/04 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade  
Seconded: Member Aroha French

That the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee receives the information provided by members by way of mihi/introduction.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted*

*in favour of resolution MRRMP202311/05 above.*

### **5.3 PURPOSE, PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES OF THE MOTUTERE RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE**

The Senior Committee Advisor advised that the report contained information that members could refer back to and explained Council and Committee structure including key contacts. She advised that being a committee of Council, members were required to adhere to Council's Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

She tested with the members if the proposed dates for 2024 meetings would work. It was agreed that she would take into consideration that some evening meetings could work better for members and would confirm with the Chair before sending final dates and times to members.

#### **MRRMP202311/06 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Kevin Taylor

Seconded: Member Aroha French

That the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee receives the information provided to support members in their role.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution MRRMP202311/075 above.*

### **5.4 RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW PROCESS**

The Policy Advisor gave her pepeha in te reo Māori and introduced herself and her role. She advised that this was her first project, and she was really enjoying getting to know so many people and working alongside the hapū and community. The first meeting was an awesome step, and it was exciting that it could be done virtually.

The Policy Manager introduced himself and advised he had been at Council since 1999. His team looked after reserve management plans so it was their pleasure to be involved in the review of this plan, which had been a long time coming.

The Policy Advisor recognised the Team Leader Policy E O'Callaghan who was unable to attend.

The Policy Advisor summarised the key points from the report and in answer to a question from a member, advised that the two water reservoirs were located on the reserve near the forest and could be accessed by a track. She advised that the Committee could also do site visits on the reserve.

The Policy Advisor advised that through consultation a lot of feedback regarding the camprground lease was expected. She reiterated that this feedback would help shape any future lease agreement but that it was a separate matter that would be considered by Council as the administrators of the reserve.

The Policy Manager advised that as a Committee, members had the role to assign the appropriate status of the land for those parts of the reserve covered by infrastructure. He added that infrastructure such as the waste water treatment plant tended to be designated as local purpose reserve. The reserve was currently designated entirely as recreation reserve but consideration should be given as to whether different parcels should be given a different status to reflect the waste water treatment plant, the reservoirs and other infrastructure. He added that the information gathered as part of the Three Waters reform process to identify all Council water assets would be useful.

Regarding the Certificate of Title, the Policy Advisor confirmed that Council was the registered proprietor but the Reserves Act 1977 set out what Council could and could not do. Council was not permitted to sell it but could add licences and leases. It could not revoke the reserve status. Any funds from any sale would go to the Crown, and the Minister of Conservation would be required to sign off on anything.

Hapū member Ms Aroha French added that the hapū had received more clarification through the previous ministers that had been written to directly. Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa also held some documentation. She could provide this to the Committee members.

The Policy Advisor talked to the members about the public consultation and the engagement sessions organised over the Christmas and summer holiday period. She shared copies of posters (A3473196) and information sheets (A3473194) which would be made available throughout the reserve and on Council's website. She also shared a summary of the project plan and engagement sessions (A3473197). She then explained the rest of the drafting process as per the report.

*Mayor David Trewavas left the meeting at this point (10.58am).*

Members were encouraged to attend the engagement sessions if they were available, and a poster would be added to the Waitetoko Marae. Members were also encouraged to share posts via their social media channels.

Members agreed that some of the Committee meetings could be held in Taupō provided there was a balance with those held near Motutere. The Policy Manager reminded them that they could request more touch points for meetings and/or workshops throughout the process if required. Members were keen to have a workshop to check that the main points and direction were tracking correctly before giving approval for the formal consultation on the draft Reserve Management Plan.

Hapū member Ms Jade Wikaira advised that she would investigate the history of the reserve and the original transaction documents to provide more clarity on the area and the association with Ngāti Te Rangiita. Hapū member Ms Aroha French added that whānau could have information regarding this which was researched for Select Committee hearings. She advised that hapū had met with the association of campground users who were working with one of the hapū aunties and were comfortable with the approach being taken. They were looking forward to Christmas and New Year celebrations with hapū. She acknowledged the Council staff that assisted with this engagement.

#### **MRRMP202311/08 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Kevin Taylor

Seconded: Member Aroha French

That the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee:

1. Receives the information provided in this report.
2. Directs officers to issue the public notice and begin the consultation process in accordance with section 41(5) of the Reserves Act 1977.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution MRRMP202311/096 above.*

#### **6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**The meeting closed at 11.16am with a karakia from Maru Maniapoto.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee Meeting held on 25 July 2024.**

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**CHAIRPERSON**

Extracts from Standing Orders 2022-2025

## **15. Public Forums | Ngā Matapakinga a te Marea**

Public forums are a defined period of time, usually at the start of an ordinary meeting, which, at the discretion of a meeting, is put aside for the purpose of public input. Public forums are designed to enable members of the public to bring matters of their choice, not necessarily on the meeting's agenda, to the attention of the local authority.

In the case of a committee, subcommittee, local or community board, any issue, idea, or matter raised in a public forum, must fall within the terms of reference of that body.

### **15.1 Time limits | Ngā tepenga wā**

A period of up to 30 minutes, or such longer time as the meeting may determine, will be available for the public forum at each scheduled local authority meeting. Requests must be made to the chief executive (or their delegate) at least one clear day before the meeting; however this requirement may be waived by the chairperson. Requests should also outline the matters that will be addressed by the speaker(s).

Speakers can speak for up to 5 minutes. Where the number of speakers presenting in the public forum exceeds 6 in total, the chairperson has discretion to restrict the speaking time permitted for all presenters.

### **15.2 Restrictions | Ngā Herenga**

The chairperson has the discretion to decline to hear a speaker or to terminate a presentation at any time where:

- A speaker is repeating views presented by an earlier speaker at the same public forum;
- The speaker is criticising elected members and/or staff;
- The speaker is being repetitious, disrespectful or offensive;
- The speaker has previously spoken on the same issue;
- The matter is subject to legal proceedings; and
- The matter is subject to a hearing, including the hearing of submissions where the local authority or committee sits in a quasi-judicial capacity.

### **15.3 Questions at public forums | Ngā pātai i ngā matapakinga a te marea**

At the conclusion of the presentation, with the permission of the chairperson, elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by a speaker.

### **15.4 No resolutions | Kāore he tatūnga**

Following the public forum, no debate or decisions will be made at the meeting on issues raised during the forum unless related to items already on the agenda. (See the LGNZ Guide to Standing Orders for suggestions of good practice in dealing with issues raised during a forum).

### **15.5 Application of restrictions | Te hāngaitanga o ngā Herenga**

Clause 15.2 above applies to members of the public addressing meetings at any time, not just as part of a scheduled public forum session.

Extracts from Standing Orders 2022-2025**9.1 Items of business not on the agenda which cannot be delayed | Ngā take kāore i runga i te rārangi take e kore e taea te whakaroa**

A meeting may deal with an item of business that is not on the agenda where the meeting resolves to deal with that item and the chairperson provides the following information during the public part of the meeting:

- (a) The reason the item is not on the agenda; and
- (b) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

*LGOIMA, s 46A(7).*

Items not on the agenda may be brought before the meeting through a report from either the chief executive or the chairperson.

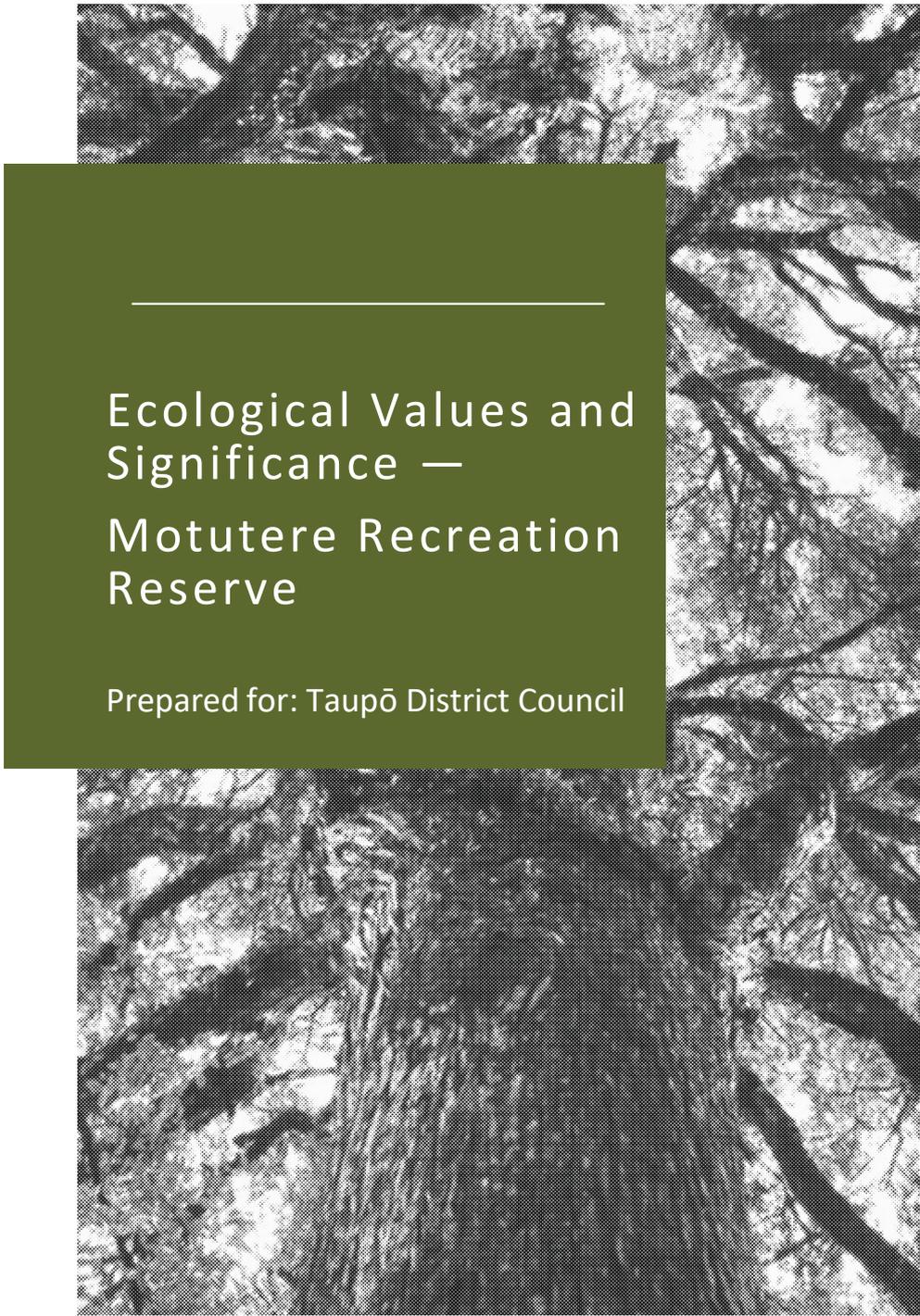
**Please note**, that nothing in this standing order removes the requirement to meet the provisions of Part 6 of the LGA 2002 with regard to consultation and decision-making.

**9.2 Discussion of minor matters not on the agenda | Te kōrerorero i ngā take iti kāore i runga i te rārangi take**

A meeting may discuss an item that is not on the agenda only if it is a minor matter relating to the general business of the meeting and the chairperson explains at the beginning of the public part of the meeting that the item will be discussed. However, the meeting may not make a resolution, decision, or recommendation about the item, except to refer it to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

*LGOIMA, s 46A(7A).*





NSES Ltd report 25:2024/25



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**Date:** July 2024

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## 1. Introduction

Motutere Recreational Reserve is 32.27 hectares and located on the eastern side of Lake Taupō (Figure 1.1). The part where the campground is located is 23.897 hectares.

Figure 1.1: Motutere Recreational Reserve



Part of the reserve is used as a campground, whilst much of the remainder is either indigenous or exotic woody vegetation. The south part of the area of woody vegetation has been identified for low density expansion of the campground within the reserves management plan (Taupo District Council 2004). This area is also included within as Significant Natural Area 1036 (Figure 1.2) within Wildlands (2019a) desktop SNA report. Areas require field survey to confirm SNA status which has not been done for this area. However as the area is a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, this 'draft' designation probably does not legally apply and thus should be considered to be a Significant Natural Area (SNA) for the purposes of management.

### 1.1 Purpose

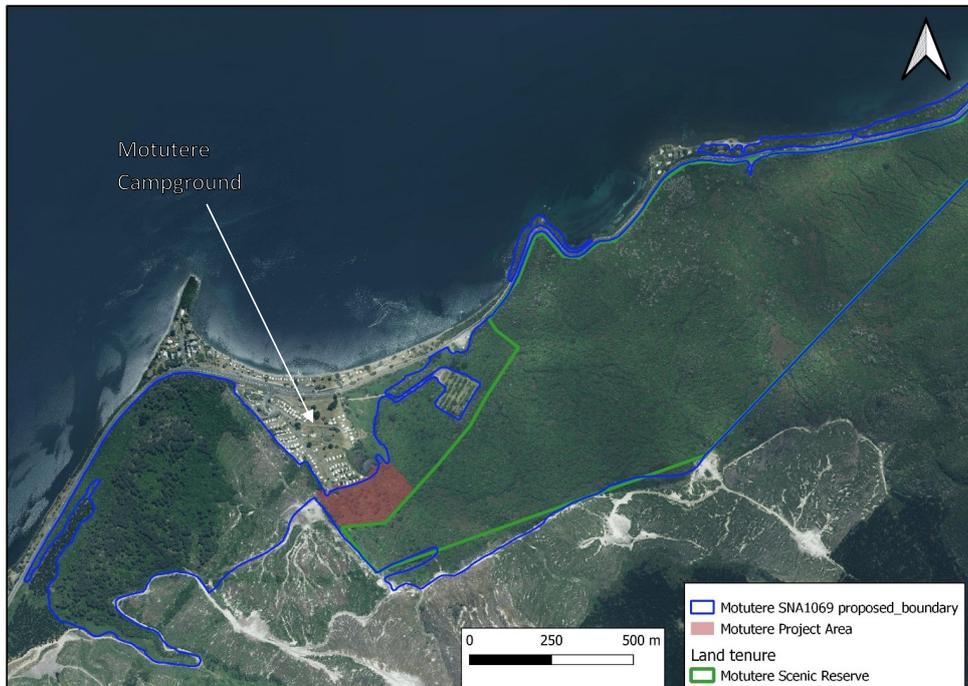
The purpose of this report includes the following components:

- Undertake an ecological assessment of the draft SNA within the campground expansion area (hereafter called the Project Area) and ground truth the Waikato Regional Council significance criteria for indigenous habitat and species and relevant district plan criteria.
- Provide a high resolution orthomosaic drone image of the draft SNA within the campground expansion area.
- Produce an aerial map showing extent of SNA (if criteria are met).

Ecological Values and Significance — Motutere Recreation Reserve. Prepared for Taupō District Council. © Nicholas Singers Ecological Solutions Ltd. NSES Ltd Report Number 25:2024/25, July 2024.

- Undertake a statutory assessment of the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, relevant District Plan rules and Reserves Act 1977 (if criteria are met).

Figure 1.2: Motutere SNA1069 boundary and the location of the Project Area



Ecological Values and Significance — Motutere Recreation Reserve. Prepared for Taupō District Council. © Nicholas Singers Ecological Solutions Ltd. NSES Ltd Report Number 25:2024/25, July 2024.

## 2. Ecological Values of the Project Area

The Project Area is approximately 3.454 hectares in size.

The canopy vegetation is dominated by whauwhaupaku (*Pseudopanax arboreus*), of 5 to 8 m tall which occupies 50–60% of the canopy. Amongst this are emergent maritime pine trees (*Pinus pinaster*), which cover approximately 0.8 hectares of the area. Whauwhaupaku commonly occurs beneath this emergent tree. Other common trees include kōhūhū (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*), māhoe (*Meliccytus ramiflorus*) and kānuka (*Kunzea robusta*). On the south side several poplar trees and two small patches of blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) occur. Bracken occurs in open clearings, though the areas are too small to map and are rapidly regenerating into whauwhaupaku forest.

In the understorey, hangehange (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium* var. *ligustrifolium*) is abundant while karamū (*Coprosma robusta*) and shining karamū (*C. lucida*). Shining spleenwort (*Asplenium oblongifolium*) is the most common understorey fern. Other fern species present include pikopiko (*A. bulbiferum* and *A. gracillimum*).

Figure 2.1: Vegetation communities in the Project Area



Examination of aerial images show that there has been considerable vegetation succession of this area over the last 20+ years. This recovery has likely been encouraged by control of possums by Osprey TB FreeNZ.

Whilst maritime pine are common, other invasive weeds are uncommon. The following species were seen all of which are uncommon: Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), English ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), flowering cherry (*Prunus* sp.), three species of cotoneaster, male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), jasmine  
 Ecological Values and Significance — Motutere Recreation Reserve. Prepared for Taupō District Council. © Nicholas Singers Ecological Solutions Ltd. NSES Ltd Report Number 25:2024/25, July 2024.

(*Jasmine polyantha*) and agapanthus (*Agapanthus praecox*). The latter two have spread from adjoining campsites.

**Table 2.1: Vegetation communities mapped and orthomosaic imagery from drone imagery (6<sup>th</sup> July 2024)**

Vegetation type	Area (Ha)
Blackberry vineland	0.031
Kānuka forest	0.141
Maritime pine/ whauwhaupaku forest	0.801
Poplar/ whauwhaupaku forest	0.022
Whauwhaupaku forest	2.470
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3.464</b>

Native birds seen or heard include tūi (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*), which was particularly abundant feeding on flowering whauwhaupaku. Other species seen or heard include korimako or bellbird (*Anthornis melanura*), pīwakawaka or fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*), riroriro or grey warbler (*Gerygone igata*), pōpokotea or whitehead (*Mohoua albicilla*), miromiro or tomtit (*Petroica macrocephala toitoi*), kererū (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) and tauhou or waxeye (*Zosterops lateralis lateralis*). Wildlands (2000) also recorded the mātātā or North Island fernbird (*Poodytes punctatus vealeae*) within the SNA which is an At risk — declining species.

Other species likely present within SNA 1069 include, kārearea or falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae*), the elegant or green gecko (*Naultinus elegans*) and the Raukawa or forest gecko (*Woodworthia maculata*) and long tailed bats (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*).

A number of waterfowl species have been recorded along the lake margin which also frequent parts of the reserve.

## 2.1 Threatened species

### 2.1.1 Threatened flora

Overdyck (2020) provides a comprehensive list of nationally threatened and regionally uncommon species (de Lange et al. 2017) historically or currently present in the Waikato Region and the Taupō District.

- Kānuka (*Kunzea robusta*) — Threatened Nationally Vulnerable. This species is locally common within the Project. Kānuka is a threatened species due to the risk from myrtle rust however I have not seen myrtle rust present on kānuka locally or elsewhere. Myrtle rust is locally present on more susceptible species. Whilst myrtle rust has been recorded on kānuka (Campbell et al. 2020), disease severity on these species appears to be minor (Sutherland 2020) — approximately 15% and 13% respectively of these have been shown to be resistant in ex-situ inoculation studies (Smith et al. 2020). Consequently, I do not consider to be threatened in the Waikato Region.
- Dwarf mistletoe (*Korthalsella salicornioides*) — Threatened – Nationally Critical. This is a hemi-parasite found on mature kānuka within the Motutere Scenic Reserve, so occurs within

Ecological Values and Significance — Motutere Recreation Reserve. Prepared for Taupō District Council. © Nicholas Singers Ecological Solutions Ltd. NSES Ltd Report Number 25:2024/25, July 2024.

the wider SNA. It was not seen and is unlikely to occur in the Project Area, given that its host, kānuka, were all small young trees.

Citizen scientist species observations from iNaturalist were explored and no threatened plants were found.

### 2.1.2 Threatened fauna

No species of threatened fauna were detected within the Project Area. The Project Area appears to be unsuitable for māātā and this species is unlikely to now be present here Project Area. Māātā likely utilise large areas of bracken fernland within the SNA and these are more common within the adjacent Scenic Reserve. Whilst no threatened fauna was detected, this is not proof of absence. There is a good chance that the elegant gecko, which is an At risk – declining species is present. This would need to be surveyed for during warmer months to confirm. Long tailed bats potentially feed in the area and may on occasion roost within the large maritime pine trees. These would also require a specific surveyed for during warmer months (October to April).

## 3. Significant Natural Area designation

Within the Waikato Region significance under section 6c of the RMA 1991 is determined by applying criteria within the Waikato Regional Policy Statement and the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (2023). There is some overlap with these criteria so both need to be considered.

### 3.1 Waikato Regional Policy Statement significance criteria

Up until the NPSIB 2023, determining significance within the Waikato Region was evaluated by applying the significance criteria (Table 28 of the RPS) for a particular site. Guidance for applying these criteria can be found in Wildlands (2019b).

These (abbreviated) criteria are:

- Criterion 1 — Legally protected habitat.
- Criterion 2 — Coastal Marine Area
- Criterion 3 — Threatened or At Risk species.
- Criterion 4 — Under-represented (20% or less) habitat or ecosystem in an Ecological District, or Ecological Region or nationally.
- Criterion 5 — Naturally uncommon ecosystems
- Criterion 6 — Wetland habitat
- Criteria 7 — Large (relative to other examples).
- Criteria 8 — Critical habitat
- Criteria 9 — Healthy and representative habitat
- Criteria 10 — Ecological sequence
- Criterion 11 — Ecological buffer, linkage, or corridor

### 3.2 National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023

The NPSIB2023 (appendix 1) provides guidance for determining significance, primarily based on four criteria and associated clauses (2 & 3).

Ecological Values and Significance — Motutere Recreation Reserve. Prepared for Taupō District Council. © Nicholas Singers Ecological Solutions Ltd. NSES Ltd Report Number 25:2024/25, July 2024.

(1) An area qualifies as an SNA if it meets any one of the attributes of the following four criteria:

- (a) representativeness: (This is equivalent to WRPS criteria 9)
- (b) diversity and pattern: (This covers WRPS criteria 7, 10 & 11)
- (c) rarity and distinctiveness: (This covers WRPS criteria 3 & 4)
- (d) ecological context: (This covers WRPS criteria 7, 8, 10 & 11)

(2) If an area would qualify as an SNA solely on the grounds that it provides habitat for a single indigenous fauna species that is At Risk (declining), and that species is widespread in at least three other regions, the area does not qualify as an SNA unless:

- (a) the species is rare within the region or ecological district where the area is located; or
- (b) the protection of the species at that location is important for the persistence of the species as a whole.

(3) If an area would qualify as an SNA solely on the grounds that it contains one or more indigenous flora species that are Threatened or At Risk (declining), and those species are widespread in at least three other regions, the area does not qualify as an SNA unless:

- (a) the species is rare within the region or ecological district where the area is located; or
- (b) the protection of the species at that location is important for the persistence of the species as a whole.

### 3.3 Wildlands significance assessment of SNA 1069

Wildlands (2020) have provided Taupō District Council with a stocktake of SNA within the district. SNA 1069 recognises all indigenous dominant vegetation present, including the campground expansion area within the recreational reserve. SNA 1069 is larger than the part within the recreational reserve and includes the adjacent Motutere Scenic Reserve and adjoining Māori land to the south, 'Rangitoto' which is an urupa (Figure 1.2).

Wildlands assessment considered that SNA 1069 met the following criteria:

- 1 (Protected area),
- 3 (Habitat for Threatened or At risk species),
- 9 (Healthy and representative), and
- 11 (Ecological buffer to Lake Taupō).

SNA 1069 is 278 hectares and is contiguous with natural vegetation within the Waipehi Stream complex which is 1208 hectares (SNA036). Combined these two significant natural areas are approximately 1,486 hectares. The altitude of this remnant ranges from 380 m to 660 m and transitions from mild forest dominated by broadleaved trees to cool forest dominated by beech forest.

### 3.4 Current significance assessment of the Project Area

Significance assessment should be applied at the scale of the natural area (Davis et al. 2016). Assessing subparts of a natural area separately is an incorrect application of the method which typically downgrades values. However, my assessment below, I have considered the Project Area as well as the wider SNA1069.

- Criteria 1

This criterion is met because the Project Area is part of a Recreation Reserve protected under the Reserves Act 1977. Further this adjoins the Motutere Scenic Reserve.

- Criteria 3 (Potentially applicable see section 2.1). This criterion is partially equivalent to the NPSIB rarity criterion which considers both species rarity.

Insufficient information to confidently state what threatened species occupy or utilise the Project Area. It is very likely that some threatened species occur within SNA 1069.

Kānuka is present which is threatened Nationally Vulnerable (de Lange et al. 2017). However, this species would not trigger the rarity criterion because when applying the NPSIB Appendix 1 Clause 1(2) criterion, because kānuka is widespread within the Waikato Region and adjoining regions (Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay).

Dwarf mistletoe (*Korthalsella salicornioides*) which is threatened Nationally critical (de Lange et al. 2017) occurred in SNA1069 near Lake Taupō. Whilst these plants along with the host trees have died, it is likely to be present somewhere else within the SNA.

Criterion 3 would be triggered if elegant gecko or long tailed bats used the Project Area.

- Criteria 4 (Under-represented habitat or ecosystem, (20% or less) in an Ecological District, or Ecological Region or nationally. This criterion is partially equivalent to the NPSIB rarity criterion which considers ecosystem rarity.

This criterion can consider both the current and potential state of the habitats and ecosystems present within an SNA.

Wildlands (2019a) did not identify that SNA 1069 met this criterion. Wildlands (2019b) recommends as a starting point comparing the site vegetation to current extent of potential ecosystems (Singers & Rogers 2014) with Appendix 1. Appendix 1 was developed by WRC and involved spatially comparing current vegetation (from Landcare Research Landcover database 5) with the potential ecosystems for the Waikato Region (Singers 2015). The potential ecosystem type (Singers & Rogers 2014) for the Project Area is predicted to be MF10, Tōtara, mataī, kahikatea forest, which the remaining extent has been calculated at 1.3% within the Taupō District. My assessment of the Project Area is that this is valid, tōtara and mataī would have dominated most of the Project Area while kahikatea would have likely occurred within the gully to the north. This is a nationally threatened ecosystem type and due to fire and logging, most remaining examples are early successional or modified vegetation.

Under representativeness is also supported by assessing whether the Project Area and SNA is located within a threatened land environment (Landcare Research). Using the online maps I have identified

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that the Project Area is located in a chronically threatened land environments, which is one where there is 10–20% of indigenous cover left. Indigenous biodiversity in these environments has been severely reduced and remaining habitats are sparsely distributed in the landscape. (Landcare Research).

The current state of the Project Area and wider SNA 1069 is not MF10. Consequently, it is also valid to consider the extent of whauwhaupaku forest as a habitat type. Whauwhaupaku forest is successional and regionally uncommon because it occurs only where animal pests are at very low abundance. Whilst there is no qualitative evidence regionally, for the distribution and abundance of whauwhaupaku forest, my knowledge is that the Taupō District contains most of it within the lakeshore reserves. This is entirely a consequence of that these reserves were set aside between the 1960's and 1980's and this legal protection coincided with decades of low possum and ungulate populations, allowing forest succession of highly palatable species, such as whauwhaupaku.

For these three reasons I consider that criteria 4 is met for both the Project Area and wider SNA.

- Criteria 9 (Healthy and representative). This criterion is equivalent to the NPSIB 'representativeness'.

Despite the presence of wilding maritime pine, the Project Area is dominated by palatable plants, such as whauwhaupaku, māhoe and hangehange which are highly palatable to introduced animal pests. Regeneration is abundant and prolific. The Project Area is moderately representative of whauwhaupaku successional forest, though highly native dominant habitat occurs within the wider SNA.

For these reasons I consider that criteria 9 is met for both the Project Area and wider SNA.

- Criteria 11 (Ecological, buffer, linkage, or corridor)

Agree with Wildlands (2019a). Current, land use is a low nitrogen leaching landcover thus provides a buffer for protecting water quality of Lake Taupō. Further, this area contiguous with the Waipehi Stream corridor.

## 4. Policy Assessment

### 4.1 Reserves Act 1977

Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977 covers recreational reserves. Part 1 describes the purpose of recreation reserves:

*‘providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside’.*

Section 2 (b) — (d) of the Act provide guidance to maintain the natural and landscape values of the reserve:

*‘where scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, geological, or other scientific features or indigenous flora or fauna or wildlife are present on the reserve, those features or that flora or fauna or wildlife shall be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve’*

*‘those qualities of the reserve which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony, and cohesion of the natural environment and to the better use and enjoyment of the reserve shall be conserved’*

*‘to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve, its value as a soil, water, and forest conservation area shall be maintained’*

In summary, section 17 aims to balance provision of recreation whilst protecting the environment and landscape values.

### 4.2 National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023

The relevant policies and clauses for management of SNA within the are presented below:

- Policy 3: A precautionary approach is adopted when considering adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity.
- Policy 6: Significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna are identified as SNAs using a consistent approach.
- Policy 7: SNAs are protected by avoiding or managing adverse effects from new subdivision, use and development.
- Policy 8: The importance of maintaining indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs is recognised and provided for.
- Policy 9: Certain established activities are provided for within and outside SNAs.

Sections 3.10 & 3.11 provide clauses for managing adverse effects on SNA of new subdivision, use and development and exceptions to these. These clauses need to be evaluated together when considering this proposal and would be fundamental for the development of an assessment of effects. This will require additional information gathering.

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My assessment has confirmed that the Project Area meets WRC significant criteria and NPSIB 2023 and should be considered an SNA (not a draft SNA) because the land is legally protected as a recreation reserve and meets other significance criteria.

If this project were to proceed then the first stage would be to:

- Confirm there is a functional need or operational need for the new subdivision, use or development to be in that particular location (as per clause 3.11 (b)); and there are no practicable alternative locations for the new subdivision, use or development ((as per clause 3.11 (b)). This will require evidence that options analysis has occurred, and all other options have been exhausted and why this is the best location for campground expansion. Specifically addressing:
  - *Are there other suitable locations within the Recreational Reserve which could be developed that have no or less effects on SNA 1069? For example, land east of SH1 is currently dominated by blackberry and other weeds. This could be cleared, a corridor of native trees planted as a buffer to the road and the remaining area appropriately landscaped.*
- Address clause 3.10 (2) particularly sub-clauses (b) & (c) which cover fragmentation and connections to other important habitats. As shown on Figure 1.2 the Project Area adjoins the scenic reserve. Provision of a suitable sized buffer, between the Project Area and the scenic reserve would be appropriate and consistent with this clause.

If the development were to proceed then:

- An assessment of effects report would need to be developed (as required by clause 3.10 (3) and (4) (a) & (b) that applies the effects management hierarchy to avoid, minimise, remedy, offset or compensate effects. This would firstly require additional information to be gathered specifically on fauna, especially lizards and long tailed bats. This development would likely trigger the need to undertake a biodiversity offset. This would need to comply with principles 1 to 6 in Appendix 3 and 4 and have regard to the remaining principles in Appendix 3 and 4, as appropriate. The larger the clearance of SNA 1069, the larger the offset would be required. Given the age of parts of the forest, the offset required would be greater than 1: 1. However, if this offset was undertaken in advance, a 1:1 ratio may be sufficient. The offset could be undertaken elsewhere within the Taupō Ecological District.

### 4.3 Taupō District Plan

Relevant District Plan objectives and policies are including in the following sections:

3i.2.2 Facilitate the long term protection of areas of natural value in the Taupō District

3i..2.3 The enhancement of areas of natural value in the Taupō District.

## 5. Discussion and Conclusion

The Project Area has ecological values which met significant criteria within the WRPS and NPSIB2023, thus should be included as part of SNA 1069. However, the Project Area contains a number of areas dominated by maritime pines, young Douglas fir and other introduced weeds, covering approximately

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0.8 – 1 hectare. Removal of these weeds and creation of small clearings would provide for low density accommodation as stated within the Motutere Recreational Reserve Management Plan (TDC 2004). One very feasible option would be to create 'Bush campsites' which would retain most natural vegetation and the associated natural character and amenity values. A low density approach is likely consistent with policy within the Reserves Act, NPSIB2023, District Plan and Management Plan.

Removal of areas of indigenous vegetation should be offset through restoration planting of appropriate species. The amount of offset should be determined through an appropriate method such as the Biodiversity Accounting Method (Maseyk, 2014). If this offset was undertaken at the same time as loss, it is likely that a ratio of approximately 1: 4 or 5 would be required, given the age and size of the trees. However, if an offset was to occur several years in advance this would be less. The goal of the offset would be to achieve at least 80% cover of indigenous trees within 5 years which would require an annual maintenance plan. This would be an appropriate consent condition if a consent is required.

Wholesale clearance of all this area would be inconsistent with policy. More intensive campsite development would be better to be located to other degraded areas of the reserves, such as areas of blackberry scrub adjacent to State Highway 1 or after remediation, the former landfill site.

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1987 Aerial of Motutere Camp, including old landfill site location.









17<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Councillors,

**Subject: Closure of the waterfront area of the Motutere Bay Holiday Park**

Yesterday I received advice from staff that they were going to put forward 3 options for consideration by the Motutere Reserve Plan of Management Committee relating to camping on the Holiday Park's lakefront.

My comments regarding these are as follows.

**1. Waterfront closure and conversion to day visitation area.**

As lessee of the park the possibility of closing the lakefront camping came as a complete shock to me as I felt my compromises, put before previous meetings, went a long way to overcoming the main concerns raised during the consultation process.

The consequences to the viability of the park with total closure of the waterfront are quite significant. These are just some of the major issues:-

- A reduction in park income of approx. 45%. (\$675,000 in last financial year)
- The loss of 11,392 individual tourists annually to the waterfront section of the park and the region. (taken from our Newbook reservation software)
- A reduction in the value of my business by a similar percentage.
- The loss of over \$1.5m spent on capital expenditure on the waterfront infrastructure over the past 7 years (some buildings may be able to be sold or moved). This includes:-
  - a. Two new amenity blocks.
  - b. Two new camp kitchens.
  - c. Replacement and extension of underground power.
  - d. Replacement of all switchboards.
  - e. Replacement and extension of water mains.
  - f. New lighting.
  - g. Landscaping.
  - h. Road construction.
  - i. Fencing.
  - j. Ground restoration.
  - k. Internet infrastructure.
  - l. Security cameras.
- The increase of fees to existing holiday van owners to cover the fixed costs associated with running the park.
- Staff redundancies.
- Changes to all marketing material including but not limited to multiple websites, social media & printed material. (The significance of marketing your business as lakefront should be understood. It is a major attraction with social media searches etc)

Seven years ago, my family decided to purchase the lease of the Motutere Bay Holiday Park. Councils CEO at the time committed in writing to me for a new lease of 33 years and to include additional land in the lease for

the park's expansion. As part of my due diligence I was given the 2003 plan of management, the recommendations of which **supported camping** on the waterfront (subject to the removal of caravans).

With the commitment of the CEO for a longer lease and a Council adopted plan allowing camping on the waterfront I proceeded to purchase the lease with the approval of the governments Overseas Investment department. (subject to a capital commitment of \$1.65m). The majority of this money was spent on the waterfront. At no stage was it ever suggested, by anyone, that camping on the waterfront would be removed.

I have to ask the question. What has changed? Why is this being considered? I can understand the caravans being required to go but why camping? Backpacking is the backbone of New Zealand tourism, and this site offers such a wonderful location for tourists from other countries and New Zealand residents to see and experience this wonderful lake. The park occupies .2% of the perimeter of the lake and is the last remaining campground. Why would you not choose any other location on the lake to set up a day visitor area.

The plan of management set out to decide the future of the Motutere Reserve and the Holiday Park. Local residents and people using the reserve and the holiday park were asked by staff to send in submissions so they could provide feedback as to the way they would like the reserve to be managed.

There were 128 submissions received directly relating to the existence of the campground and in particular foreshore camping and over 90% of the respondents requested that the park remain as it is. There were only 11 submissions requesting that a day visitation area replace the camping area. In other words, just like the previous management plan, people were overwhelmingly happy with camping on the waterfront. So the question to be asked by all that took the time to respond is, if camping is closed then why did they bother. Nothing has changed since 2003 so why is backpacking on the lake now so toxic an idea instead of blessing this activity and it's promotion of tourism.

Last month, I held a meeting with approximately fifty Annual Site Licence holders to discuss the most recent committee reports.

The main pushback from residents centred on the following points:

- Any proposal to close the boat ramp.
- Any proposal to remove camping from the waterfront as part of the Holiday Park.
- Any proposal to introduce a public "park" on the waterfront.

The idea of a public recreation "park" on the waterfront and the closure of tent camping was criticised strongly. It was condemned unanimously as an impractical and an unreasonable idea for the reasons below: -

- The holiday park foreshore land was (many years ago) set aside for camping and should remain. It was gazetted as such. Lots of documentation was stated as being at hand as this fight was had 20 years ago.
- The holiday park takes up 0.2% of the 190km of lakefront. It is the only camping ground remaining.
- There are many more suitable locations on the lakefront where day visitation is allowed. Council could add toilets and tables etc to these areas. Why choose the last remaining campground for this purpose.
- Safety issues between boats and children already exist. Introducing children who are not educated about boats into this area could create more serious problems.
- I own all the infrastructure on the waterfront, including water and sewer (excluding mains), electricity, amenity blocks, recreation rooms, lighting, fencing, and roads.
- The public cannot use the existing amenity blocks, as they are far too big and contain showers. Cleaning them every day would be very costly. Council would need to build new toilets.

- Where staff are proposing to locate the day visitors area would require people to carry all their food etc from the boat ramp to this new area.
- This new area will result in more boats accessing the lake for skiing, fishing, etc. Where will the boats park when people want to get out and mingle with their families on the shore?
- More pedestrians, including children, will be crossing the highway to buy ice creams and other items. While this is good for my business, it poses a significant safety risk for the children.
- What about the overseas tourists? It would be really useful to read our online reviews. They are glowing in their compliments about experiencing Lake Taupo up close.
- According to plans I've seen, the highway will be diverted, and camping will become an even more amazing experience. The public recreation area will never be seen by those travelling via the bypass.

There are many more reasons put forward at the meeting but these are a summary of major points.

## 2. Leave camping on the whole of the waterfront.

Whilst this is obviously my favoured option I understand and support the need to comprise. Staff have put forward a strong case for a day visitor area on the waterfront and whilst there were only a small number of persons requesting this I have come to understand their position.

Public in the past have been confused as to where they can or cannot go on the foreshore, especially during peak periods. Signage and walkways would help but if the area is cluttered with tents and motor homes I can understand the issue.

## 3. Day visitors area and waterfront camping.

My suggested compromise would be:

- Set aside a designated day visitor area at the **southern** end of the waterfront. Not next to the boat ramp. Develop a separate entry where the existing road services the homes on the point. Knowing the area, this will be a far better location. It is safer away from boats, takes camping away from the housing area and will eliminate congestion and conflict with boats.
- Restrict boats from going into the beach in this location.
- Build a small toilet block to cater to day visitors and passers-by.
- Leave the ramp as a public ramp.
- Provide limited parking to cater only for quite periods so the waterfront doesn't become a car park.
- Locate all overflow boat trailer parking across the road.
- Waterfront camping remain on the northern side of the boat ramp
- The top expansion area be made available to replace lost waterfront motor home and camping sites.
- The other defined expansion area or similar be made available for sports fields and facilities for park patrons and locals.
- Domes be removed from the waterfront

Regards,



John Tilton